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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 21, 1998

Magalie Roman Salas, Esquire
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas,

Enclosed is an original and four copies of a Petition for Rule Making to amend the FM table of allotments for a new FM broadcast station for Columbia Falls, Montana.

Sincerely,



Victor A. Michael Jr.
President
Mountain West Broadcasting
6807 Foxglove Drive
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

307-778-9318

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ORIGINAL

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the matter of:)
)
Amendment of Section 73.202 (b))
) RM-_____
Table of Allotments)
)
FM Broadcast Stations)
)
(Columbia Falls, MT)

PETITION FOR RULE MAKING

In this petition, Mountain West Broadcasting is hereby requesting to allot channel 276C3 (103.1 Mhz) to Columbia Falls, Montana as its second FM allotment.

INTRODUCTION

1. This statement is a petition for rule making to allot FM channel 276C3 (103.1 Mhz) to Columbia Falls and add it to the Commission's FM table of allotments, 73.202. The following will show the need for an FM channel and the effects the allotment of Channel 276C3 to Columbia Falls will have.

DISCUSSION

2. Columbia Falls is located in northern Montana. It is also located within Flathead County, a county of some 59,218 persons. Columbia Falls has a population of 2,942 persons in accordance with the U.S. 1990 census.

3. The allotment of channel 276C3 to Columbia Falls will provide the second local FM broadcast facility to the community and/or the surrounding area. The closest other FM allotment to Columbia Falls is located at Whitefish, Montana . Whitefish is located 12 kilometers from Columbia Falls. KKMT(FM) is licensed to Columbia Falls. KKMT(FM) operates on channel 240C2 (95.9 MHz) with 30,000 watts ERP at 410 feet, HAAT. .

4. Columbia Falls would greatly benefit from an FM allotment due to the fact there is no other AM or FM broadcast facilities, except KKMT(FM), within 12 Kilometers of Columbia Falls. Health and safety for the community would be increased due to having an additional local communications outlet for warning the Columbia Falls area of emergency conditions caused by severe weather or other health hazards. The allotment of channel 276C3 will provide the second commercial FM service to Columbia Falls.

5. Channel 276C3 can be allotted to Columbia Falls and meet all rules and requirements of the Commission. The instant proposal will not cause a change in the channel number or a deletion of any channel now appearing in the Commission's table of allotments 73.202.

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Columbia Falls, Montana	240C2	240C2, 276C3

6. In accordance with 73.207 of the Commission's rules, "Minimum Distance Separations between Stations", all allotments on Channel 276C3 and the pertinent adjacent channels to 276C3 have been studied with the results listed in Figure 1 of this petition. The geographic coordinates used for the spacing study (N 48 - 22' - 30", W. 114 - 10' - 54") are that of a site located within the community of Columbia Falls. No site restriction will be required to allot channel 276C3 to Columbia Falls. Many suitable transmitter sites are available to provide city grade coverage (3.16 mv/m or 70 dbu) to the entire community of Columbia Falls. These sites would also provide full minimum spacing requirements to other allotments.

CONCLUSION

7. It has been shown that Columbia Falls would benefit from the allotment of channel 276C3. It has also been shown that channel 276C3 can be allotted to Columbia Falls and meet all rules regarding spacing from other stations. Considering these two facts, Mountain West Broadcasting hereby requests that the Federal Communications Commission institute a Rule Making proceeding to amend the Table of Allotments to add channel 276C3 for Columbia Falls, Montana , 73.202.

8. Should channel 276C3 be allotted to Columbia Falls, I certify that I will file an application for a Construction Permit to operate an FM station for Columbia Falls, Montana.

CERTIFICATION

9. I certify that I have prepared or directly supervised the preparation of this entire Petition for Rule Making, and that the facts contained within are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, accurate and true.

Dated: December 21, 1998

Respectfully submitted,



Victor A. Michael Jr.
President
Mountain West Broadcasting
6807 Foxglove Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82009

307-778-9318

MAPFM search of channel 276C3 (103.1 MHz), at N. 48 22 30, W. 114 10 54.

Searching Channel 276C3 (103.1 MHz):

CALL	CITY	ST	CHN	CL	S	DIST	SEPN	BRNG	CLEARANCE
ALC	Ronan	MT	222	C	U	67.2	31.0	185.5°	36.2
KQRK	Ronan	MT	222	C	L	67.2	31.0	185.5°	36.2
ALC	Cut Bank	MT	274	C1	U	149.5	76.0	76.9°	73.5
NEW	Cut Bank	MT	274	C1	A	149.5	76.0	76.9°	73.5
NEW	Cut Bank	MT	274	C1	C	146.0	76.0	81.2°	70.0
ALC	Creston	BC	275	B		189.7	149.0	295.1°	40.7
CKO-5	Calgary	AB	276	C		298.7	259.0	0.2°	39.7
ALC	Coeur d'Alene	ID	276	C2	U	223.5	177.0	248.4°	46.5
KCDA	Post Falls	ID	276	C1	A	221.5	211.0	249.0°	10.5
KCDA	Coeur d'Alene	ID	276	C2	D	221.5	177.0	249.0°	44.5
KCDA	Coeur d'Alene	ID	276	C2	L	221.5	177.0	249.0°	44.5
ALC	Helena	MT	276	C1	U	256.0	211.0	140.6°	45.0
K276DU	Whitefish	MT	276	D	L	10.5	0.0	282.6°	10.5
KVCM	Helena	MT	276	C1	L	241.3	211.0	137.7°	30.3
KVCM	Helena	MT	276	C1	A	241.3	211.0	137.7°	30.3
ALC	Lethbridge	AB	278	C1		175.5	106.0	30.6°	69.5

FIGURE 1
CHANNEL SPACING STUDY
COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA
WEST WIND BROADCASTING